

On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington, Texas Police Department

20 Years Later: APD Puts New Spotlight on Amber Hagerman Case

On the 20th anniversary of the abduction and death of nine-year-old Amber Hagerman, the Arlington Police Department worked with media partners and the community to share information about the case that could assist detectives in generating new leads.

From this 1996 homicide, a nationwide notification alert system was created. The Amber Alert advises the public to be on the lookout when a child is reported missing. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Amber Alert is credited with saving nearly 800 abducted children since 2009.

The APD Media Office produced a video that highlights this case. The video includes interviews with detectives. Although 20 years have passed, Arlington detectives believe someone has knowledge that will bring closure for the family and the community.

Oak Farms is offering a \$10,000 reward for any information that leads to the arrest and indictment of the individual or individuals responsible for this crime. Click [here](#) for video.



www.Arlingtonpd.org

On the APD Website: A Spotlight On Other Crimes

The Arlington Police Department investigates cold case homicides concurrently with new cases. A web page has also been developed to put the public spotlight on unsolved crimes and wanted fugitives.

Good news! In 2015, Tarrant County Crimestoppers presented APD with awards for the greatest dollar recovery and most cases cleared.

According to APD Detective Josh Gowins, in 2015 Arlington received 886 tips through CrimeStoppers and paid cash rewards to tipsters totaling \$47,250. Click [here](#) to connect with the web page.

If you have information about an unsolved homicide, contact Sgt. Kraig Fryer at 817-459-5772 or Tarrant County Crime Stoppers at 817-469-8477 (TIPS).



At a news conference on Jan. 12, homicide detectives join the family of Amber Hagerman to share information that could assist in generating new leads.

Arlington is Number #3 in Nation

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) has published its 2015 ranking of U.S. cities who hosted National Night Out activities last year.

According to the NATW, Arlington moved up one place to finish third in a national comparison of large cities with populations larger than 300,000 residents.

Over the past five years, Arlington has been surpassing large U.S. cities who plan and organize National Night Out activities.

The rankings are based on a number of factors, including the overall quality of a city's National Night Out campaign, neighborhood participation, law enforcement involvement and promotional efforts. Cities also prepare a Post Project Report for the NATW.

Arlington's campaign included newspaper advertising, neighborhood signage and a community support initiative with Safe Haven of Tarrant County. Arlington National Night Out Coordinator Michelle Benjamin registered 191 parties.

"We are thankful to the Arlington community for getting involved and partnering with the Arlington Police Department. We've already started getting ready for 2016," said Crime Prevention Sgt. Vince Pewitt.

Save the date. National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 4.

2015 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RANKINGS

Compiled by the National Association of Town Watch

#3
ARLINGTON, TX

#2
San Antonio, TX

#1
Minneapolis, MN

Not In Our Town Film Screening is Feb. 11

The Arlington community is invited to take part in the first of a series of public events planned this year.

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, APD will host "Not In Our Town," at UT Arlington's Lone Star Auditorium located in the Maverick Activities Center, 500 W. Nedderman Dr.

Following the screening of the PBS documentary, *Waking In Oak Creek*, a panel will be assembled to lead a community discussion about the 32-minute film.

Waking In Oak Creek is the story about a community in Oak Creek, Wisconsin who finds inspiration after lives are shattered by a hate crime.

"Not In Our Town," is a national project to stop hate and build safe, inclusive communities. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Civil Rights Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. For more information about this event, call 817-459-5725.

On Call North District

APD YOUTH CORNER

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

High School students interested in a career with APD can earn credit towards a criminal justice degree and participate in early police training through a program being led by the APD, Arlington ISD and UT Arlington. Ask a school counselor or School Resource Officer about the Hometown Recruiting Program.

The Arlington Alliance for Youth will host the 11th Annual Youth Collaboration Breakfast on Friday, Feb. 5 at the Arlington ISD Mac Bernd Professional Center. Keynote Speaker: Mayor Jeff Williams. To RSVP, call 682-867-7373.

Serving and helping others. Global Youth Service Day on April 16 is the largest youth service movement in the world. Get involved. Click [here](#).

North Police District Salutes Dedicated Volunteer

This month, the North Police District highlights another outstanding community volunteer.

Anna Pettit has been a Community Watch Coordinator in the North District for about six years and always does a great job of hosting her neighborhood's National Night Out activities every year.

She is also a member of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association and recently joined our Citizens On Patrol Mobile.



Anna was on patrol in the Oak Hill neighborhood when she noticed a partially burned home. She also saw an Arlington police car sitting across the street from the home. She approached the officer who told her that the man living there set the home on fire and threatened to burn another house. The officer gave Anna a good description of the suspect and asked her to call 9-1-1 if she saw him.

Anna returned to the area later that day and saw the suspect sitting on the front lawn. She immediately notified police and the man was arrested and taken into custody.

Not only did Anna help police locate a dangerous suspect, she also pitched in to help pull neighbors together to assist the homeowner with repairs caused by the fire. She also connected the resident with services offered through the UTA Neighborhood Outreach program.



Anna Pettit with Lt. Russ Greene. Anna also volunteers at the North Police District Lobby Desk. Thank You!

This police volunteer went above and beyond the call of duty on this neighborhood patrol and we thank you for your service!

If you would like to get involved with your police department as a volunteer, contact me. I can help you get started.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call South District

Don't Become an Easy Target for Crime

We've all done it. We get home from a long day of work and our thoughts are entrenched on the next set of tasks that need to be completed before dinner.

The next morning, we wake up to discover we forgot to lock the car the night before. We breathe a sigh of relief when we discover everything is just where we left it. But some of the neighbors are not as lucky. They have become victims of theft.

To drastically reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime, the concept of

target hardening should be in your thoughts. Target hardening sounds complicated, but it's a catchy way of saying "don't make yourself an easy target for crime."

Make it a habit to lock the vehicle when exiting and follow this plan every time you park. For added safety, test the door handles before leaving the vehicle unattended in a public area. Remotely relocking the vehicle is also good idea.

Set aside a few minutes every couple of months to test your security plan. Tweak what needs to be improved and expand your action plan to include your home or business.

These conscious small steps will serve to protect your property from crime and increase your family's overall safety.



Don't make yourself an easy target for crime. Make it a habit to lock the vehicle each and every time you exit.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Timothy Hayden at 817-459-6468 or Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov.



CONGRATULATIONS!

The City of Arlington welcomes 22 new police recruits. Arlington Police Academy Class #49 is comprised of men and women from many parts of the U.S. including Virginia, Indiana, California and New Jersey. All are proud to call Arlington their new home.

Following the graduation on Jan. 29, these officers enter a new phase of learning in field training.

DID YOU KNOW? Class #50 reported for duty on Jan. 19. More about them inside next month's *On Call*.

On Call East District

Hispanic Community Outreach Program Serves Families

At last month's gathering at Unidos, more than 100 families attended our program and festivities.

Unidos is a public outreach program developed to unite and share information with the Hispanic community. Meetings are quarterly and hosted by APD.

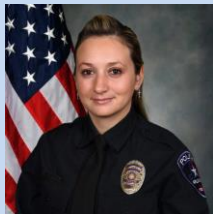
At the December meeting, our program showcased a variety of affordable healthcare services. There were free health screenings, games, prizes along with a special visit from Santa.

Because Unidos is a community outreach program, participants provide feedback about what they want to see. We have covered such topics as immigration, home ownership and the services offered by the Mexican Consulate.

Save the date. The next Unidos meeting is Tuesday, March 8.

A special thanks to all who have made this programs a big success, including Arlington police officers, the Arlington Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association Amigos en Azul, and Elisa Cruz from our Crime Prevention Unit who works behind the scenes to coordinate our activities.

For more information about this program, call 817-459-5817.



A CELEBRATION OF CULTURES

From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 5, the East Police District will partner with the community to host a Multicultural Event to feature dance performances, food and fashion from various cultures. This event is free and open to the community.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalia Aumedes at 817-459-5817.

Every month, watch for a new crime prevention highlight from the East Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalia Aumedes at 817-459-5817 or Natalia.Aumedes@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call West District

Detective is a "Peak Performer" in the West Police District

The West Police District spotlights Detective Elizabeth Bennett as one of our department's 'Peak Performers.'

Detective Bennett's work on a robbery case led to the arrest of a suspect and the recovery of stolen items.

With the assistance of detectives from the West Criminal Investigation Division

and officers from the Hot Spot Enforcement Team, stolen items from five residential burglaries and two vehicle burglaries were recently recovered.

The suspect was arrested and charged with multiple felony offenses.

Information gathered during Detective Bennett's investigation also revealed that the suspect had been committing offenses over the past year. Many of the stolen items were sold to fund the woman's drug addiction.

In addition to recovering stolen property, Child Protective Services was also brought in to ensure the safety and welfare of an 18-month-old baby living in the woman's home.

Detective Bennett is still working to close other cases that may be tied to this one suspect. It may never be known how many burglaries she actually committed.

There were many long work days and nights as Detective Bennett remained dedicated to following every lead and returning property to the rightful owners.

The West Police District is proud to have this 'Peak Performer' on our team.



Police Chief Will Johnson presents his Challenge Coin to Peak Performer Detective Elizabeth Bennett.



ASK US ABOUT AN INTERNSHIP AT APD

The Arlington Police Department is accepting applications for its Internship program. Student applicants must be a junior or senior enrolled at an accredited university.

Applying is easy. Just send us email expressing an interest in our program. Submit a letter of recommendation and college transcript.

For more information, contact APD Investigator Terry Martin or click [here](#) for details.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight each month from the West Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfely at 817-459-6072 or Doug.Glotfely@Arlingtontx.gov.

Community Policing at Its Best

Officer's Skateboard Skills Engage Community

VANDERGRIFF SKATE PARK

Patrol Officer Joshua Altimus understands the value of community policing and beat accountability.

It's a philosophy of full service policing that allows him to patrol the same area in a proactive partnership with residents and businesses to identify and solve problems.

When Officer Altimus was dispatched to a public intoxication call on his beat, he found families having fun in the skate park.

The 9-1-1 caller believed that children and adults were drinking alcohol in the park. Upon arrival, Officer Altimus said he found soda, tea and kids having a good time on skateboards. Then he noticed an old school-styled skateboard. While engaging in conversation with the youth gathered around him, one of

them invited the officer to "give it a spin."

What happened next went viral on social media. This officer is a pro on the skateboard. He's been riding since age four.

There were posts on Facebook and Twitter. In one video, a teen can be heard saying, "that's the coolest cop I've ever seen."

Corporal Angela Bell and Officer Vincent Wyatt arrived on scene and also captured the excitement on camera.

To see the action. Click [here](#). "Twenty years ago, I wasn't a cop," he says. "As a kid, every time I saw the police, I was being led off of a parking lot with my skateboard."

With a skateboard in his patrol car, Officer Altimus is currently on evening patrol in the West Police District.



"Because I am out here in the community and interacting with people, I think that makes me more approachable. That puts me in a position to do a better job of protecting and serving."

- Officer J. Altimus

Through community policing, Arlington officers help address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as social disorder, crime and the fear of crime.



At 70, Still "One of the Best" on the Street



Officer Roy Mitchell today.

He's the oldest cop on the block. Last month, Officer Roy Mitchell celebrated his 70th birthday on patrol in the East Police District.

He told a CBS 11 News reporter during an interview, "I enjoy putting on this uniform and being an Arlington police officer."

"I don't know what else I would do," he says. "I enjoy what I do."

Officer Mitchell has been wearing a badge longer than most officers on the street have been alive.

This Vietnam Veteran began his career in law enforcement

in 1967 with the Seaside Police Department in California.

Officer Mitchell has worked as a state trooper with the Texas Highway Patrol and in 1973 became a police officer, firefighter and one of the first emergency medical technicians hired by the DFW International Airport.

He joined the Arlington Police Department in 1979 and has spent time as a detective, Crime Scene sergeant, lieutenant and member of the SWAT Team.

In 2002, Officer Mitchell



Flashback to 1967.

slowed down, but didn't stop. On most weekdays, you can find him on patrol in the East Police District as a part-time officer.

Wishing him a happy birthday, Arlington Police Lt. Tracie Baker said Officer Mitchell is still committed to public safety.

"He's an original, full of energy and can come out of nowhere to catch the bad guy," she says. "He's still one of the best."

GOOD POLICE WORK!

Officers Capture Suspect Linked to Stolen Cash and Cookies

South District Officers captured their suspect after responding to an aggravated robbery in progress call on Jan. 4.

Police say the man was wearing a blue bandana around his neck and a black and white hat when he threatened a store employee with a weapon and fled on foot from a popular sandwich shop.

A witness saw the robber enter a nearby creek. South District officers staged quickly at key areas along the creek and bridges and searched for their suspect.

When the robber saw that he was surrounded by Arlington officers, he tossed a plastic bag containing cash, coins and two chocolate chip cookies. He gave himself up and was taken into custody without incident, according to reports.



During an interview with detectives, this suspect also confessed to two robberies, both within walking distance of his home address.

The stolen cash, including the chocolate chip cookies, were all returned to the store owner.

Great police work, South District Patrol!



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Send story ideas and comments to:

817-459-5384 or Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov

www.Arlingtonpd.org "Join Our Conversation 24/7/365"

Nextdoor

